Xigrid Soto selected as participant in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Minority Student Leadership Program: Class of 2010

Xigrid Soto, graduate clinician at USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences’ Department of Communication & Sciences Disorders (CSD), has been selected as a participant in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Minority Student Leadership Program (MSLP): Class of 2010. This year’s MSLP will be held during the association’s convention, November 16-21 in Philadelphia, PA.

The Minority Student Leadership Program was developed by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) in order to provide students from underrepresented groups an opportunity to develop leadership skills in the profession of communication disorders. Soto will participate in a set of leadership-focused educational programs and activities at this year’s convention. The activities work to build and enhance leadership skills; help participants gain an understanding of how the association works, and provides the opportunity to interact with leaders in the professions of audiology, speech-language pathology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences.

Soto, a native to Puerto Rico, moved to the United States when she was 11 years old. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders from USF and is currently on her second year of CSD’s graduate program, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in Speech and Language Pathology. Her ultimate career goal is to obtain a doctorate degree in Speech-Language Pathology, in order pursue her research interests in the areas of bilingualism, literacy, and autism.

While at the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Soto has become involved in completing a thesis on bilingualism and literacy. As a student coming from an underrepresented group, she has developed a passion for making a difference in the lives of people who are linguistically and culturally diverse. Soto feels her participation in the Minority Student Leadership Program will provide her with experiences that will equip her with the tools to develop into a future leader in the field of Speech and Language Pathology.